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*File* *John F. Kennedy*  
*CHES* *TCS-2578-60*

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Participation of the United States Intelligence Community in the U-2 Program

*continued*

*U-2*

At the inception of the program a mechanism was established to provide the requirements of the United States Intelligence Community. Initially an assessment was made of all the intelligence targets from which information could be obtained through reconnaissance, taking into account the specialized capabilities of our collection device. From this total list a very limited selection was made bearing upon three (3) highly critical national intelligence problems, namely, guided missiles, nuclear energy, and the long-range bomber. This highly selective list, reviewed continually in the light of new information from all sources, became the basis for flight planning. Such planning also included secondary requirements which could be covered incident to achieving the major objectives.

Careful and continuous coordination was also achieved to assure the prompt equal access to the materials by all properly cleared members of the Intelligence Community. Immediately when the plane landed, the film was rapidly transmitted to the processing center, whereupon the United States Intelligence Agencies engaged in joint photographic interpretation. Reports were promptly disseminated to all participating agencies in the United States and as required to overseas commands by priority communications. Such reports were available within six (6) to ten (10) days after the plane had landed. Comparable provisions were made for the assessment and reporting

of the photographs.

The program, by virtue of its advanced photographic capabilities, produced film which could provide information beyond the then current state-of-the-art of photo-interpretation. As a result it was necessary to develop new methods and equipment for the interpretation of the overflight photography. These new developments were shared throughout the Intelligence Community and have helped to establish a new platform of capabilities for moving ahead in photographic-interpretation in the future.

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